



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

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Contact: Joe Ferson, 617-626-1119
Todd Lafleur, 508-866-2580 x.108

**PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERS CELEBRATE OPENING OF
JIM ROCHE COMMUNITY ICE ARENA IN WEST ROXBURY**

BOSTON: The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), along with Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Massachusetts Roche Bros. Supermarkets founder Bud Roche, State Senator Marian Walsh, State Representative Mike Rush and local skating enthusiasts today celebrated the reconstruction of the skating rink in West Roxbury which has been renamed the Jim Roche Community Ice Arena.

In the spring of 2005, legislation was drafted and enacted, through the efforts and guidance of Senator Walsh and Representative Rush, to renovate and improve the rink. The \$1 million in state funds appropriated in the legislation and \$100,000 in capital funds provided by DCR were complemented by a \$2.3 million private donation from Bud and Eileen Roche and the Roche Family, through the Eileen Roche Foundation. The rink was renamed the Jim Roche Community Ice Arena in honor of this generous contribution. The legislation also created a DCR-managed fund, financed by 5% of the rink's annual revenue, for future improvements to the facility.

"The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is delighted to have been able to partner with Bud and Eileen Roche and other members of the Roche Family to transform this skating rink into a proud new addition to community recreation in West Roxbury," said Secretary Pritchard. "We sincerely appreciate the role Senator Walsh and Representative Rush played in securing state funding for the project. We also look forward to working together with the City of Boston, which now has a 3-year management plan with DCR to manage this rink."

The rink was built in 1964, originally as an open-sided seasonal rink with an arched roof covering the ice surface. In 1975 the ice rink was enclosed. The new, state-of-the-art ice skating arena, which opened on January 2nd, offers many significant improvements. These include an insulated roof, an insulated ice slab, new refrigeration, electric and utility services, new boards and tempered glass, and ADA accessible bleachers with infra-red overhead heaters. New and larger team rooms were also constructed, and the concession area, lobby, skate shop and parking lots were expanded.

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“Our family is thrilled to be able to participate in the construction of this superb ice arena,” said Bud Roche. “By working together with the Commonwealth, we were able to build a facility where children and adults can skate together in a first class environment.”

“This is a great example of a collaboration between the city and the state,” Mayor Menino said. “I also want to personally thank Bud Roche and the entire Roche family for their dedication to this community. The reopening of this rink, with the new improvements, is so important to not only West Roxbury but the entire Parkway area.”

Under the new management agreement, the rink will remain a public facility, owned and controlled by DCR, but managed by the City of Boston’s West Roxbury Community Center. The Community Center has hired Facility Management Corporation (FMC), which manages 22 skating arenas across the Commonwealth, to handle the day-to-day operations of the rink.

“The DCR public-private skating rink partnerships represent a major step forward for our rinks,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “This management agreement, like the 26 long-term leases at DCR rinks, is an opportunity to offer improved service and facilities, and maintain the rink as a public facility that will provide affordable recreation for the community.”

Jim Roche Community Ice Arena is the most recent DCR-owned rink to have its management transferred to a municipality or private management partner. Similar agreements were recently tendered for urban rinks in Arlington, Cambridge, Canton, East Boston, Everett, Lynn, Newton, Revere, and Waltham. To date, this leasing program has resulted in third-party leases at 27 of DCR’s 43 skating rinks. Through an open and competitive bidding process, these arrangements have proven successful and have resulted in increased hours of operation and improved conditions at these rinks. In the last fiscal year alone, \$1.8 million in capital improvements were made to DCR-owned rinks by third party operators.

“The Roche Community Ice Arena is a dream come true,” said Senator Walsh. “We have the immense generosity of the Roche Family to thank. Hockey and figure skating are sports enjoyed by so many people; this is a genuine community treasure that can now be fully enjoyed for generations to come.”

“This is a great day for the people of our community,” said Representative Rush. “This rink will be a constant reminder of the team work between The Roche Family, many elected officials, state agencies, the City of Boston, and most importantly the parents and children that made this dream become a reality.”

Additional benefits of the reconstruction project and new management arrangements include:

- The rink will be now operate year-round and a minimum of 12 hours per day; previously, it was opened 5 months a year and only 8 hours per day
- Purchase of a new environmentally-friendly electric Zamboni ice resurfacers and ice edger, at a cost of \$130,000
- Establishment of a scholarship fund for college-bound youths in the community funded with 2.5% of the arena’s gross annual revenues
- Fees for ice rental and public skating will have to be approved by DCR, ensuring that they remain reasonable.

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